

Remarks/Arguments

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance the prosecution of the case.

1. The priority claim acknowledgment in PTOL 326 is appreciated.

2. A Substitute Specification is enclosed which replaces the previous specification with a specification having section headings. In the new specification the American idiom has been used. The Substitute Specification does not contain any new matter. A marked-up version showing the changes made is enclosed.

3. Claims 1-12 have been amended as to form. No changes have been made for claims 13-21. Claim 22 is canceled.

4. Pursuant to the requirement for restriction, applicant hereby elects the group of claims to which claims 1-12 are directed, namely, the article claims (for the record it is noted that in paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has classified claims 1-12 in Group I as drawn to the article whereas in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner appears to have classified the same claims in Group II).

To be certain that there is no ambiguity, applicant will assume that claims 1-12 drawn to the article are classified in Group I and that Group I is the group of claims relating to the produce made. Group II will be understood to relate to the process of making the article and hence the product.

Pursuant to the requirement for restriction, applicant provisionally elects the invention classified in Group I to which claims 1-12 are drawn, namely the article or the product made.

The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed.

It is the Examiner's position that restriction is justified here because the process as claimed could be used to make a materially different product because a different material than cellulose could be applied. However, that is not the case since claim 13 expressly includes the step of asserting a coating of a cellulose-based material on the at least one portion of at least one of the most outer fibers. The use of the cellulose-based material is thus an essential part of the method and cannot be replaced as the process is claimed.

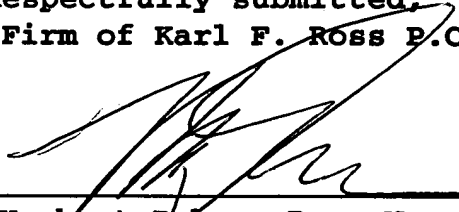
In short, the process as claimed cannot be used to make another product at all, let alone one which is materially different, and thus the product as claimed is the invariable outcome of the practice of the method steps and, of course, also cannot be made by another and materially different process.

Atty's 22833

Pat. App. 10/782,127

The restriction requirement should be withdrawn and an  
Action given on the merits of all of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures: Substitute Specification  
Marked-up version of orig. spec.